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LETTER DATED 18 MARCH 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In view of the enormity of the genocide that occurred in Rwanda in 1994, questions continue to surround the actions of the United Nations immediately before and during the period of the crisis. It is therefore my intention to set up an independent inquiry into the actions which the United Nations took at that time.

The primary purpose of the independent inquiry would be to establish the facts and to draw conclusions as to the response of the Organization to the tragedy. The investigators would be expected to interview any person having knowledge of the events in question, and would enjoy full access to United Nations records, including internal documents and cables. I would establish a time limit for their work, and issue the report on the inquiry as a United Nations document. The inquiry will be financed from existing resources.

Before proceeding, I would be grateful for confirmation that the Security Council supports this important undertaking. I would therefore appreciate it if you could bring the present letter to the attention of members of the Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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